

STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

May 6, 2011

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is building a School Interoperability Framework (SIF) infrastructure for the State of Iowa. As you may already know, SIF (Schools Interoperability Framework) is a data standard that allows applications to automate the sharing of data. This year, the DE will automate batch uploads for many of the scheduled data collections school districts are responsible for reporting including BEDS, EASIER, and the Iowa Transcript Center. The DE will also automate the creation of student IDs. Beginning fall 2011, these processes will be done through a SIF user interface hosted in the Iowa Education Portal.

I would encourage you to help the DE and your lowa school district clients with our automation efforts by developing a SIF agent for your application. The DE will publish a document very soon that outlines all the data and business rules the SIF agent requirements to support the Iowa SIF project. The DE has contracted with Pearson Data Solutions to assist in this SIF implementation.

To support development efforts, the DE will provide any interested vendor in the state with an Agent Development Kit (ADK) and host a cloud based SIF testing environment for vendors. A 1.5 day developer training will be hosted at Pearson's office in Utah to assist vendors who are new to the SIF development process. This training will also provide feedback and assistance when needed throughout the effort. These are valuable services and training that are being provided to you at no cost during the project. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to get involved with SIF. Below are multiple training options for the lowa SIF implementation including the developer boot camp.

Training Opportunities	When	How to Get Involved
SIF Overview Training	Fridays at 10:00 a.m. CT	Contact Pearson for registration link
SIF Profile Review	At your convenience	Contact Pearson for more details
SIF Developer's Boot Camp	Onsite in Sandy, UT	May 25-27, 1 ½ days using .NET and 1 ½ days using Java
SIF ADK or Test Environment	Available	Contact Pearson for credentials and access

Pearson Data Solutions can be reached at <u>iowa@transcriptcenter.com</u>. Please reference SIF VENDOR TRAINING in the subject line of your message.

I look forward to working with you as this project progresses and am excited about the additional value this project brings for Iowa school districts. I also want to highlight the importance of your role in assisting with implementing BEDS, EASIER and SIF for your software. If you have questions, or need more information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jay Pennington, Chief Bureau of Planning, Research, Development and Evaluation Iowa Department of Education

Phone: (515) 281-4837

Email: jay.pennington@iowa.gov